

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

CONGRATULATING SAMMY SOSA OF CHICAGO CUBS FOR HITTING 500 MAJOR LEAGUE HOME RUNS

SPEECH OF

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 2, 2003

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H. Res. 195, a resolution to congratulate Sammy Sosa of the Chicago Cubs for hitting 500 major league home runs.

There is no doubt that Mr. Sosa's exploits on the baseball diamond will one day earn him a place in Major League Baseball's Hall of Fame in Cooperstown, NY. There is no doubt that his drive and talent make him a role model to scores of American children who one day hope to stare down a fastball in the batter's box of any ballpark.

However, it is his spirit, energy and commitment off the field that has earned him a place in the hearts of citizens all over the world, including those in his native Dominican Republic. Just a couple of weeks after he and Mark McGwire shattered baseball's single season homerun record in 1998, he traveled to the DR to help rebuild the country after it was devastated by Hurricane Gorges. He continues to offer his time and money to provide children with the opportunities that poverty denied him, allowing them to dream that they too can rise above their economic circumstances and reach their potential.

Those in my district, which includes the proud Dominican community of Washington Heights, know that Sammy Sosa isn't the first Dominican to achieve success in the Big Leagues. He follows in the footsteps of trailblazers like Felipe Alou, Joaquin Andujar, George Bell, Rico Carty, Tony Fernandez, Pedro Guerrero, Juan Marichal, and Jose Rijo. He, as well as contemporaries like Pedro Martinez, Manny Ramirez and Alex Rodriguez, remind others of how necessary it is to use fame and fortune to help others.

A CONGRESSIONAL TRIBUTE TO AUDREY FERGUSON, 2002-2003 TEACHER OF THE YEAR

HON. WM. LACY CLAY

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 4, 2003

Mr. CLAY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to Ms. Audrey Ferguson, a teacher at the Laclede Elementary School in the St. Louis Public School system and winner of the 2002-2003 Teacher of the Year Award.

Ms. Ferguson is the first teacher from the St. Louis Public Schools to win Missouri's Teacher of the Year Award since its inception 50 years ago. Ms. Ferguson has been teaching for 32 years and has held her current post at Laclede Elementary School for 26 years.

Also, it should be noted that this year Laclede Elementary School received the distinction of being named a Gold Star School, making it one of the top 15 elementary schools in the state of Missouri. So you see, success at the school is more than personal, it is systemic.

Ms. Ferguson's major subject area is mathematics, in grades 1-5. Also, she is certified to teach English and social studies and has certifications for teaching students with learning disabilities, students who are mentally handicapped and students with behavior disorders.

When Ms. Ferguson was 9 years old she was sent to a reading clinic to assist her with her difficulty in reading. In four years she transformed herself from a non-reading student into one who was well on her way to becoming an honor roll student. She chose to follow in the footsteps of the teachers in the reading clinic and became an educator in order to do for others what they had done for her.

In her own words, "Teachers have been given the awesome responsibility of preparing the Nation's leaders of tomorrow. Teachers must know that they are the gatekeepers of opportunity for millions of children. "We have the power to open doors that lead to great futures and we have the power to cut off access to the pathways that lead to the top," she said.

Ms. Ferguson has received numerous awards—the "Parent of the Year Award" from INROADS, St. Louis in 1994; she is listed in the Marquis' Who's Who of American Women, 21st Edition; and was also among the "100 Women Children's Advocate for 2001" produced by the Annie Malone Children's Home.

In December of 1981, she published a method of mathematical instruction in the NCTM Arithmetic Teacher's Journal called the "Stored Ten" method. Laclede teachers have used her method for many years since.

In addition to her work for the school, Ms. Ferguson has been an involved member of the community. She served as president for the INROADS PSG for one year as well as a membership chairperson for several years; volunteers annually for the United Negro College Fund Walk; and worked on community partnerships such as the "Laclede Book Buddy Program," the "Laclede Parent Partners Program," the "Laclede Parent Day Trip Program," and the "Laclede Community/School Garden Project."

Clearly, Ms. Ferguson has acted with great determination in uniting school and community.

Also, Ms. Ferguson has been involved in many workshops and conferences aimed at improving the quality of education, including but not limited to: The Successful Schools Information and Planning Meetings, the MAP Math Training Meetings and the NCTM Conference and the Title I Conference.

As evidence of her unrelenting pursuit of education, she recently received District Recognition for improving Math MAP Scores.

From her beginnings as a student in need of extra help to her current status as a devoted life-long educator, Ms. Ferguson has earned the Teacher of the Year Award through hard work and determination.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in congratulating Ms. Audrey Ferguson and thanking her for her devotion to the children of the St. Louis Public school system and the children of America.

TRIBUTE TO THE CERES, CALI- FORNIA CHAPTER OF FUTURE FARMERS OF AMERICA

HON. DENNIS A. CARDOZA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 4, 2003

Mr. CARDOZA. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor Ceres High School Future Farmers of America as they celebrate their 75th anniversary. The Ceres, California Chapter of Future Farmers of America was chartered into the California Future Farmers of America Association in the 1928. It was the 28th Chapter chartered in the State of California.

After the Chapter became chartered, they became very competitive at local, state and national levels in various competitions winning several and holding titles such as Master Champion throughout their 75 years.

Mr. Speaker, it is with great honor that I stand before my colleagues today to pay tribute to the Ceres High School Future Farmers of America and to their current as well as past members. They have served our community well and are a tremendous asset to Ceres High School. They are our future in agriculture and are very deserving of this recognition.

HONORING MARVIN DAVIES

HON. JIM DAVIS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 4, 2003

Mr. DAVIS of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise in honor of Marvin Davies, a longtime civil rights leader in Florida who recently lost his life to cancer.

Davies began his battle for equality at an early age. By the time he was a college student at Florida Agricultural and Mechanical University, Davies was participating in protests with Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. and boycotts in Tallahassee, St. Augustine and Montgomery, Alabama. Chosen as Student of the Year, he graduated from FAMU ranked second in his class.

At age 32, Davies was offered the position of Field Secretary for Florida's NAACP. He served Florida's 138 NAACP branches for seven years and became a leader in the fight for equal opportunities for all Americans in employment, schools, hospitals and all other public places.

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